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*P.O. Box 3677*  
*Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3677*  
*Phone (225) 342-4253*  
*FAX (225) 342-9318*

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April 25, 2003

Contact: Kevin Hardy

## **Regents Approve 2002-03 LEQSF Awards**

BATON ROUGE - The Board of Regents has awarded almost \$27 million from the Louisiana Educational Quality Support Fund (LEQSF) to colleges and universities statewide for FY 2002-03.

"The Support Fund is an invaluable asset to postsecondary education in Louisiana," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joe Savoie. "These awards provide sorely-needed dollars for everything from financial incentives to help attract nationally-renowned scholars to our institutions, to state-of-the-art laboratory equipment. These awards play a vital role in maintaining Louisiana's educational and economic competitiveness."

The Board's approval establishes the following award distribution:

### **Endowment of Chairs for Eminent Scholars - Total funding: \$3,220,000**

Institutions receiving funding in this category are Loyola University (\$800,000 for one \$2M chair); Tulane University (\$400,000 for one \$1M chair); LSU Health Sciences Center - New Orleans (\$1,200,000 for three \$1M chairs); Tulane University Health Sciences Center (\$400,000 for one \$1M chair); LSU A&M (\$400,000 for one \$1M chair); LSU-Shreveport (\$400,000 for one \$1M chair).

### **Research and Development - Total funding: \$5,350,000\***

Institutions receiving funding in this category include LSU A&M (Baton Rouge), Louisiana Tech, Southeastern Louisiana University, Tulane University, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, LSU A&M Agricultural Center, University of New Orleans, Loyola University, Centenary College,

(More)

## **Support Fund**

### **ADD THREE**

McNeese State University, and Southern University A&M.

### **Enhancement of the Quality of Departments/Units - Total funding: \$13,634,800\***

Institutions receiving funding for **Endowed Professorships** under this category include (number of professorships funded in parenthesis): Centenary College (3), Grambling State University (3), LSU Agricultural Center (3), LSU-Eunice (1), LSU-Alexandria (1), LSU A&M (3), LSU Health Sciences Center (3), LSU Shreveport (2), Louisiana Tech (3), Loyola University (3), Nicholls State University (3), Northwestern State University (2), Our Lady of Holy Cross College (3), Our Lady of the Lake College (3), Paul M. Hebert LSU Law Center (1), Southeastern Louisiana University (2), Southern University - Baton Rouge (2), Tulane University (3), Tulane Health Sciences Center (3), University of Louisiana at Lafayette (3), University of Louisiana at Monroe (1), University of New Orleans (3), and Xavier University (3).

Institutions receiving funding under the **Traditional Enhancement Program** include Tulane University Health Sciences Center, LSU Health Sciences Center - New Orleans, LSU A&M, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Louisiana Tech University, Nicholls State University, Nunez Community College, LSU-Eunice, LSU-Shreveport, Dillard University, Southern University A&M, Northwestern State University, Loyola University, University of New Orleans, McNeese State University, Southeastern Louisiana University, University of Louisiana at Monroe, Tulane University, Centenary College, and Southern University - New Orleans

Institutions receiving funding under the **Undergraduate Enhancement Program** include Centenary College, Dillard University, LSU-Eunice, LSU-Shreveport, Loyola, McNeese State University, Nicholls State University, Northwestern State University, Nunez Community College, Southern University-New Orleans, and Xavier University.

Institutions receiving funding under the **Pilot Enhancement Program** include Bossier Parish Community College, Baton Rouge Community College, Delta Community College, Delgado Community

College, LCTCS, Nunez Community College, River Parish Community College, South Louisiana Community College, and Southern University - Shreveport.

(More)

## **Support Fund**

### **ADD TWO**

#### **Recruitment of Superior Graduate Students - Total funding \$3,924,000\***

Institutions receiving funding under the **Traditional Graduate Fellows Program** include LSU A&M, LSU Health Sciences Center-New Orleans, LSU Health Sciences Center-Shreveport, Tulane University, Tulane University Health Sciences Center, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and University of New Orleans.

Institutions receiving funding under the **Graduate Fellowships For Teachers Program** include LSU A&M and Northwestern State University.

Funding for the program is generated through a permanent trust fund approved by voters in a 1986 constitutional amendment. The original \$540 million payment was part of a settlement between the state and federal governments over disputed off-shore oil and gas royalty (“8(g)”) funds. By 2002, the trust fund had risen to approximately \$928 million. Twenty-five percent of the interest earned each year is reinvested in the fund. The Legislature appropriates half of the remaining interest to the Board of Regents for higher education and the other half to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for grades K-12. The Board of Regents component of the fund is known as the Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF).

Louisiana’s constitution provides that the BoRSF awards shall go to support four major postsecondary education areas: 1) carefully-defined research efforts at Louisiana’s public and private universities, 2) endowment of university department chairs, 3) enhancement of academic, research or agricultural departments or units within institutions, and 4) recruitment of superior graduate students.

The BoRSF funds are awarded through a competitive, selective review process, incorporating the expertise of out-of-state reviewers. For FY 2002-03, 856 proposals from 36 campuses were considered. The proposals represented a total requested funding amount of \$72,807,737.

Since 1987, the BoRSF has generated \$515 million in new external funding for Louisiana higher education from federal, private and other non-support fund sources. Of that total, over \$203 million has been generated for Endowed Chairs and Professorships, creating 187 one-million-dollar chairs and 17 two-million-dollar chairs at 20 universities across the state, as well as 1,180 endowed

(More)

## **Support Fund**

### **ADD ONE**

professorships at 34 campuses.

For additional, campus-specific information on the LEQSF awards (including amounts) visit the Regents website at [www.regents.state.la.us](http://www.regents.state.la.us) and click on “What’s New at the Board of Regents.”

\* These figures include prior funding commitments for multi-year projects.